

## Zero Hunger and Sustainable Development Goals: Model of Food Bank Centre By Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah

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### Abstract

Food banks are normally owned by non-profit organizations which responsible for distributes food items to a person or charitable organizations in need. The implementation of Food Bank Centre is very suitable as the Malaysia government's focus to ease burden among the B40 group in 11th Malaysia Plan. In addition, Malaysia also focuses on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) whereby to ensure everyone can access food and end hunger by 2030. However, poverty rates are higher in rural area especially in Kedah, Malaysia. This article explores Model of Food Bank Centre offer to the needy and poor by Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah (LZNK). In 2019, The Food Bank covering 574 mosques in Kedah, to cover 17,220 families of the needy and poor in need to access food every month. *Maqasid shariah* theory is used as a guideline and conjunction to implement the SDGs 2030 as *maqasid syariah* itself already highlight on the elements of SDGs. The result of this program created aid to the needy and the poor in term of virtuous and moral matters. Furthermore, it also gives a positive impact to stakeholder towards LZNK. Therefore, it is suggested stakeholders should engage and do a collaboration with LZNK in order to sustain supplying food for Food Bank Centre.

*Keywords:* Food Bank Centre, Sustainable Development Goals, Zero Hunger, Muqasid Syariah.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Zakat has a significant role to play as a social finance in states with huge Muslim populations especially countries situated in Africa and Asia. In some countries with huge Muslim population, they are having authority organizations responsible to collect, channel and spend zakat funds. They are six countries have a compulsory for citizens to pay zakat. However, nine countries are voluntary despite the fact in other rest 25 countries, there is no Government system in place. Furthermore, zakat and SDGs have same objective which is to reduce poverty among Muslim population.

There are some differences between zakat and SDGs. Zakat fundamentally origin from Islam while the SDGs consensus from United Nation countries. However, SDGs and zakat have same objective reflects to Islamic values. They are alleviating poverty and hunger while reducing inequality by redistributing wealth. These goals are in line with the Islamic principles of zakat. In the Islamic faith, there are five foundational goals also known as Maqasid al Shariah. These include: protection of faith, life, progeny, intellect and wealth.

In addition, World Zakat Forum was held in Jakarta last February 2017 stated that there is correspondence and interest among zakat institutions to pursue the SDGs in zakat management. Apart from this, LZNK responsible to implement SDGs in operation of zakat management. They are seven SDGs adapted in LZNK. One of them is zero hunger. So, this article overview Model of Food Bank Centre by Lembaga Zakat Kedah (LZNK) in order to achieve zero hunger in Kedah.

## 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

### Food Bank

Food is a basic need for a person to generate energy, health and others (Syed Sabiq 1985). According to perspective in *maqasid shariah*, food is referring to *dharuririyat*. A life without food can lead them to the death (Sarimah Hanim, A.S 2005; Paizah, I 2003). Although food is the most important basic requirement, they are some people limited access to get food in their daily needs due to circumstances reason (Ayalew, M 1998; Chisholm, A & Rodyney T 1982). Due to this problem, the idea of Food Bank is established as a platform for the poor get access to the food when needed because of disaster or poverty (Riches, 1986).

In the era of Saidina Umar Al Khattab, a food centre was created known as "*Dar Ad Daqiq*" (Wheat House). "*Dar Ad Daqiq*" have a ration stock such as wheat, dates, raisins and so on. This rations is to help people (*ibnu sabil*) who are facing the discontinuation of food supplies during the day (Al Shallabi, A.M 2010). According to Amy. S (2005), in Turkey during the Ottoman empire, there was a food aid centre known as *the imaret* (General Kitchen). This *Imaret* operation uses *waqf* funds to provides food to the poor, *sufi* members and needy workers. Through the collective donation fund, Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation (KAPF) managed a free food to help the poor and needy that are desperately in need for food (Abdul Halim, R. & Kamarulzaman, S 2006).

With similar objective, LZNK has created "Food Bank" in every mosque in Kedah. A total of 574 mosques participated in this program. LZNK aim to ensure all asnaf get an easy access of food in line to achieve zero hunger as one of SDGs goals.

### 3.0 MAQASID SHARIAH

*Maqasid Shariah* is an objective of Islamic law that applying in everyday life of Muslim (Kamili, 2008). This concept was embedded in the development of Islamic economic and financial theories and practices. Islamic economic built in both micro and macro levels are based Maqasid Shariah theory.

*Maqasid* in term of language means intent, purpose, principle, intention, goal, or ultimate goal. While maqasid syariah means the ultimate goal (principle) of Islamic law. In practice, many Islamic scholars are trying to reconstruct the framework of maqasid syariah. The most famous reference about maqasid syariah concept is presented by Al-Ghazali. Al-Ghazali sums up the maqasid syariah into 5 (five) aspects. These aspects are Religion, Soul, Intellectual, Lineage and Property. Al-Ghazali stated that maqasid syariah is about fulfilling the five aspects according to the level of priority shown as Figure 1.

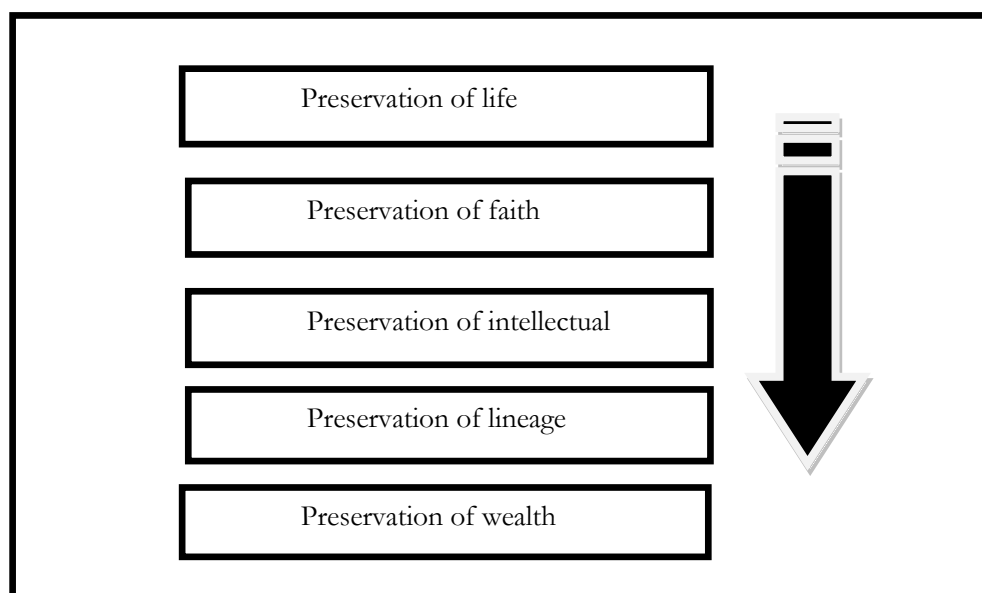


Figure 1: Maqasid Syariah Al-Ghazali dan Al-Shatib

### 4.0 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are global goals that covers three major dimensions which are social (56%), economy (20%) and environment (24%). These goals expected to be achieved in 2030 by Malaysia in line with the United Nations (UN) (Statistics Department, 2018). The SDGs agenda is agreed by 193 UN members on September 25, 2015 that has 17 goals with 169 indicators to be achieved based on the global model of SDGs.

In addition, SDGs model is an extension from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). MDGs was ended on 2015 because the goals were not fully accomplished. So, SDGs model was created and the goals were broad compare to MDGs. This program is based on the principle of "No One Left Behind". It is mean everyone got benefits from resilient development in line with human rights. Furthermore, the SDGs also focus on ending the poverty issue which is a problem for developing countries. In short term, SDGs program is aimed that future generations are able

to get all the basic requirements needed. The program covers people, planets, prosperity, peace, and partnerships, which are expected to end the current problems of developing countries.

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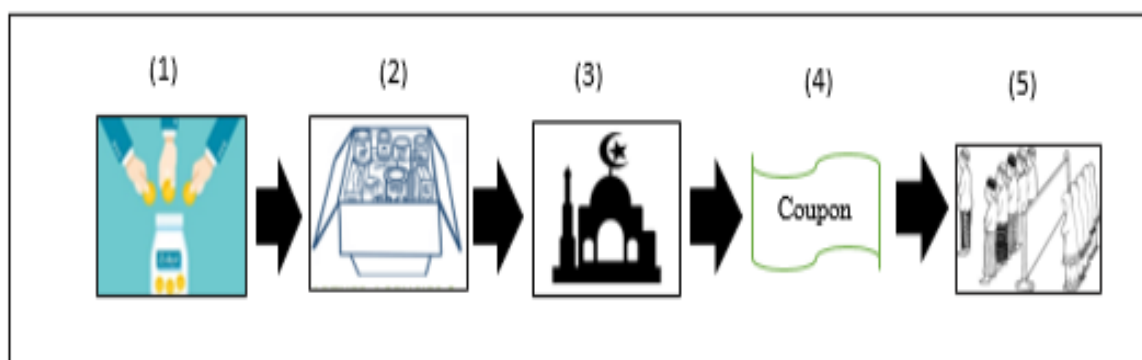
## 5.0 METHODOLOGY

This article explore Model of Food Bank Centre managed by LZNK. Qualitative method is used to collect all data. Data collected from literature review, annual report and interview (Food Bank recipients and head of mosque). After collected the data, model of food bank illustrated in figure 2 as follow.

## 6.0 RESULT

### 6.1 Model of Food Bank by LZNK

Objective of LZNK established Food Bank Centre is to ensure that the entire population of Kedah get access to food when they needed. The role of the Food Bank Centre is parallel to concept global of Food Bank. Figure 2 shows model of food bank centre by LZNK.



**Figure 2:** Model of Food Bank Centre by LZNK

Based on Figure 2, (1) LZNK used zakat funds to supply food to those who insufficient food, especially among the needy and poor. In 2018, LZNK has allocated RM 1.96 million for this program and in 2019 about RM11 million. (2) There are eight types of food distributed by LZNK as shown in Table 2. The food consist rice, sugar, oil, tea, biscuits, sardines, soy sauce and sauces. These selected items are due to durable and non-destructive nature. In addition, these items also guaranteed in term of quality because the process of delivery to mosques take a long time and all products are produced by Muslim companies. (3) Food will be distributed to those in need through the mosque.

Coupons method is used as distribution strategy in this program. Amil assistant appointed by LZNK will issue a copy of coupon to the mosque every month. (4) The coupons will be distributed to those in need based on investigation by amil assistant. (5) This distribution is done after prayer time. This is due to attract asnaf pray in the mosque and create attitude be a better Muslim to Allah and community. They are two groups applied to this program who are received food and financial aid monthly.

Based on Table 1, in 2018, Food Bank Centre received a total of 6,190 recipients monthly and currently in 2019, LZNK were distributed about 17,220 recipients monthly.

**Table 1.** Food Bank Centre and Number of Families That Receive the Monthly Food Box Aid

District	Number of Food Bank Centre at Mosque	Number of Families
Baling	66	1,980
Sik	30	900
Padang Terap	34	1,020
Yan	34	1,020
Bandar Baharu	16	480
Langkawi	29	870
Pokok Sena	31	930
Kota Setar	95	2,850
Kubang Pasu	76	2,280
Kulim	38	1,140
Pendang	50	1,500
Kuala Muda	75	2,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>17,220</b>

(Source: Distribution Department, Kedah Zakat Board)

**Table 2.** Types of Food

Number	Type of Food Rations
1	Rice
2	Sugar
3	Cooking Oil
4	Tea
5	Biscuit
6	Sardine
7	Soy Sauce
8	Chili Sauce

(Source: Distribution Department, Kedah Zakat Board)

## 7.0 CONCLUSION

SDGs is the world's agenda that must to accomplish together. Apart from this, LZNK responsible to open new opportunities of distributions parallel with SDGs objective. This model designed to give LZNK an opportunity to continue to focus on development in improving the standard of living of the poor asnaf. This model is also able to guarantee that every asnaf get basic needs.

The implementation of Food Bank Centre is one of steps to guarantee asnaf get access to food. The implementation of the Food Bank Centre in this mosque also has a positive impact on the community, especially the payer (muzakki) to the LZNK. This can weaken the negative view of society towards zakat institutions. Furthermore, people often compare zakat management with others religious house. Hence, with the provision of food supplies can nurture the payers more confidently to channel their zakat funds to LZNK.

In addition, the Food Bank Centre also has opportunity to educate the asnaf come to the mosque through a food aid distribution schedule set by the mosque. This method train asnaf closer to Allah SWT and then become as their routine.

However, Food Bank Centre will be reviewed from time to time by LZNK in order to upgrade quality of this program especially in terms of add on new food items. Finally, all government and private agencies should cooperate as a partnership for the goals to achieve SDGs and 11th Malaysia Plan. Hence, the implementation of this program will bring the name of the zakat institution in the eyes of the world.

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